

think it is very important that, as we leave this body, that we realize that those of us who had a differing opinion on the question of going to war realize the sacred responsibility that we had and realize that, as the President is the Commander-in-Chief, that we who might have opposition stand with the people of the United States to ensure our security, but, at the same time, reflect upon the importance of the Constitution that says only Congress can declare war.

We stand ready to fight terrorism, but I think it is very important for the American people to be wise and aware that we can find a way to resolve these matters with our frontline troops being strong and ready by continuing diplomacy first and working with the United Nations Security Council and not giving the authority of first strike to the Commander-in-Chief without the authorization under the Constitution that we have to declare war.

This is an important admonition. It is not stepping away from our responsibilities. It is not fear, for I look fear in the eye, and I will stand against it. It is not a fear of fighting terrorism, for I look terrorism in the eye and will fight against it. But it is a recognition of my sacred duty and responsibility to declare my standing with saving the lives of young men and women who offer themselves to fight for our freedom and justice in the United States military.

We will go off to our respective districts and each of us will have cast a vote of conscience. I believe that each of us should be respected as patriots and Americans, realizing that we have made a decision on the facts at hand. But it cannot be denied that the Constitution was written by our Founding Fathers for us not to be silent. It was written to be the underpinnings of democracy. So that as we look to give guidance to this Nation, we can be thankful for those who serve us in the United States military, but, as well, Mr. Speaker, as I close, we can say thank you, but, as well, we can stand for saving the lives of the young men and women in the military because it is a question of life and death—that's why it is our duty as Members of Congress to make decisions of war on fact and constitutional grounds.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to its gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES).

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation. Thanks to my colleague, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON), I have had an opportunity in the time that I have been in the U.S. Congress to visit a number of military bases; and I have been totally impressed with the people that I have had an opportunity to meet. It is so very, very important, having met them, that they have sufficient housing to live at least the kind of life that many of us are able to have in our own homes across this country.

I was surprised when I went to a couple of bases when I saw the schools. I saw schools that looked like many other schools that existed in the 1960s when I was in school. The kids were still going to school in the trailer houses that, unfortunately, have become permanent schoolhouses for many of these young people. I think it is important that, as we move forward, we assure the young people across this country that we are going to be supportive of them in all that they do.

I have a number of friends who have children who are now of age and are serving in military operations across this world, and I want to be able to assure my friends and their grandparents, who are the friends of my mother and father, that the young people we send out on our behalf are well taken care of. So I rise in support of this legislation, having seen some of the things we have been able to do.

If I get too far along, I may be talking out of school, but we are moving from one-plus-one or two-plus-two or whatever the living arrangements for the military are right now.

I want to congratulate the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER), who I also had a chance to visit some of these facilities with, and my good friend the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON), on the great work they have done.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would just close by again congratulating the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman HOBSON) and the ranking member, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER), for their great work on this bill.

I would again urge the leadership of this House to move out of the way and let the gentleman from Florida (Chairman YOUNG) and the ranking member, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), do what so many of us want them to do and what the people of this

country want them to do, and that is finish the appropriations bills.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the conference report to accompany H.R. 5011, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GUTKNECHT). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 5011, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATION ACT, 2003

Mr. HOBSON. Pursuant to the rule just adopted, I call up the conference reported to accompany the bill, (H.R. 5011) making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2003, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 578, the conference report is considered as having been read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of October 9, 2002, at page H7345.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON).

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill. I urge its adoption.

Mr. Speaker, I include the following for the RECORD: